Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 16 and 17 with the following amended paragraph:

Specifically, remove 3T3 cells from stock culture plates by washing cells cultured in tissue culture plates (Becton Dickinson Labware, Lincoln Park, N.J.) twice in Hank's buffered saline (HBSS; Gibco Laboratories, Grand Island, N.Y.) followed by addition of non-enzymatic cell dissociation buffer (Gibco) for 15 minutes at room temperature, and subsequently wash cells in medium. Culture flk2 3T3 cells at a final concentration of 3,000 cells per well in a volume of 100 μL of serum-defined medium containing 10% AIMV (Gibco) and 90% Dulbecco's modification of Eagle's medium (DMEM; Gibco) in 96 well plates. Under these assay conditions, cells die after two to four days of culture in a humidified incubator at 37°C and 5% CO_2 unless exogenously added ligand rescues cells from death. Each 96 well plate contains calf serum, which stimulates all 3T3 cells, as a positive control and medium only as a negative control. Full-length Fms-transfected 3T3 cells (biological response shown in Tessler et al. 1994) serve as receptor-transfected control target cells, and parent 3T3 cells serve as untransfected control cells. Proliferation and cell survival is quantitated by addition of XTT (Diagnostic Chemicals Ltd, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada), a tetraformazan salt cleaved by actively respiring cells (Mosmann 1983), and quantitated spectrophotometrically using a Vmax kinetic plate reader (Molecular Devices Corp., Mountain View, Calif.), and recorded as either relative activity (units/mL) or as specific activity (units/mg). One unit of biological activity is defined as the reciprocal dilution at which half-maximal stimulation of cells is detected. FIGS. 2A-2D show that pylartin isolated from red kidney beans specifically stimulates flk2 3T3 cells in an IL1-dependent manner. Pylartin biological activity was tested over a 1,000-fold range on flk2/Fms 3T3 cells (FIGS. 2A and 2B) and parent untransfected 3T3 cells (FIGS. 2C and 2D) in the absence (FIGS. 2A and 2C) and presence (FIGS. 2B and 2D) of 10 ng/mL human recombinant interleukin 1-alpha (IL1-α) (BioSource International, Camarillo, Calif.) and quantitated by XTT. The pylartin protein stimulated proliferation of flk2/Fms 3T3 cells only in the presence of IL1,

and did not stimulate proliferation of untransfected 3T3 cells regardless of whether IL1 was present or not.